



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Fuerst, *et al.*  
APPLICATION No.: 09/769,066  
FILED: January 24, 2001  
FOR: HEPATITIS E VIRUS ANTIGENS AND USES  
THEREFOR

EXAMINER: PENG, B.  
ART UNIT: 1648  
CONFIRM. No: 7789

**Amendment**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This a response to the Office Action dated March 17, 2006. The amendments to the claims begin on page 2, and the remarks are on page 4.

A Petition for Extension of Time, and a Request for Continued Examination  
accompany this response. Applicant requests an extension of time of two months, such that the deadline for replying to the present office action will be August 17, 2006.

08/22/2006 HGUTEMR1 00000089 09769066

01 FC:1801 790.00 OP  
02 FC:1252 450.00 OP